(b) The main reasons for low plant load factor of Thermal Power Stations in the State sector are the old age of the generating units, obsolescence of technology, non-availability of adequate quantity of fuel, mismatch in the designed fuel quality and supplied fuel, long outage of the units for planned and unscheduled maintenance, etc.

Allocation of gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti fields

2901. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has approached the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for getting nearly half the quantity of gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti fields for producing more power to meet countrywide power shortage;

(b) if so, the response of the latter thereto; and

(c) what are the barriers in accepting the Ministry's legitimate demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the prevailing shortage of gas at NTPC power plants, Ministry of Power has requested Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to advise Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to allocate 7 Million Standard Cubic Meter per day (MMSCMD) of gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti (PMT) field to NTPC Ltd.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has intimated that the demand of natural gas in the country is more than the availability. However, priority is being given to supply of natural gas to power plants, including from PMT fields. The power plants located along Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur (HB J)/ex-Hazira are being supplied a total quantity of 2.25 MMSCMD natural gas from PMT fields at Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) price. Further, 1.5 MMSCMD is being supplied to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL). 0.90 MMSCMD would be supplied to Torrent Power Limited. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has informed that the total supply to power sector from PMT fields would be 4.65 MMSCMD.

Power shortage

2902. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic industrial production would be hampered by upto thirty five per cent in the coming months due to power shortage;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for generation of more power in the country, to fulfil the industry's demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There is a continuing shortage of power in the country. The quantum of shortage varies from State to State, on day to day and hour to hour depending on demand and supply of power. The energy and peak shortage in the country during the year 2007-08 was 9.8% and 16.6% respectively.

There is no representation from the domestic industries about the impact of power shortage or its impact degree in terms on the domestic production in the coming months. Electricity being a concurrent subject under the Constitution, the supply and distribution of electricity